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Visitors experience facial recognition technology at a Face++ booth during the China Public Security Expo in Shenzhen in 2017. In China, facial recognition is being used by the government to help monitor the movements of the country's 1.4 billion people. The Chinese-Canadian owner of a supermarket chain in Canada wants to install the technology in his stores to make check outs even simpler, others fear the "Big Brother" potential (Bobby Yip/Reuters)

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Chinese facial recognition coming to a few Canadian stores

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An advance for consumers, or towards Orwellian future?

A chain of supermarkets frequented by the Chinese communities in southern Ontario and southern British Columbia may soon install facial recognition technology.



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President at an event in Beijing. He also spoke at a rally in Markham Ontario in August against the Hong Kong democracy movement; Former Ontario Liberal cabinet minister Michael Chan also spoke at the pro-Beijing rally.



Wei Chengyi, speaking at a pro-Beijing rally in Markham Ontario on August 11, 2019 denouncing the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, (courtesy Epcch Times-Yi Ling)

Wei has said he is considering using Chinese technology to enable customers to pay through facial recognition starting early next year. Clients will simply look into a camera and their face would be recognized and linked to their account.

It seems this could be the first use of such technology in a store in North America.

China has some two million surveillance cameras and facial recognition is used widely for such things as gaining entrance to schools and zoos, to monitor social habits to create a “social

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initiated from CCP (Chinese Communist Party) influence under the guise of high-tech investment or business innovation,”

Other privacy advocates are also concerned. Anne Couvoukian, former privacy watchdog for Ontario and now the Distinguished Expert-in-Residence, leading the Privacy by Design Centre of Excellence at Ryerson University in Toronto. She has expressed personal speculation that all tech from China has a “back door” and data will end up in China.

Additional information-sources

- PostMedia: T. Blackwell: Nov 12/19: Businessman with Beijing ties to bring face recognition to Canada
- BlogTo: M Miller: Novv 13/19: Supermarket might let clients pay through facial recognition
- Forbes: B. Marr: Jan 21/19:Chinese social credit score- utopian big data bliss or Black Mirror on steroids
- Epoch Times: O. Ghoreishi: Aug 16/19: Pro-Beijing groups in Canada rally to denounce Hong Kong democracy protests
- Associated Press (via CBC): Oct 16/19: Chinese snooping tech spreads to vulnerable to abuse
- South China Morning Post: P. Zhang: Sep 2/19: Chinese university- facial recognition will improve attendance
- Globe and Mail: n. Vanderklippe: Jun 1/18: China “smart eye” camera scans student faces for emotion, stoking fears of state monitoring
- Telegraph (UK): N. Connor: May 17/18: Chinese school uses facial recognition to monitor students in class



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CANADA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

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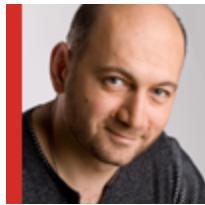
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